CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

ve by the front of the rebel line, and not far from it that should we do this, and the enemy found it out, the no doubt he would, his first move would be to our column in two and then attempt the capture of party cut off. Any person at all sequainted with itary matters knows how a cavalry command will stary matters knows how a cavalry command will ing out, no matter how close the column is marched. In round the column is marched on the column is marched. In the column is the column is marched and the column is the column could be got well on in the direction if not quite up five Forks, the rear would have been back near the putton plank road. Had the enemy then made an attack, I we been compelled to front into line to meet him, and we been compelled to front into line to meet him, and we been compelled to front into line to meet him, and was account of the competition of the competition. We could not charge the enemy mounted, for the ground was heavily wooded, besides being swampy, gain, had our men been dismounted and sent into fight, le long range rifles and muskets of the enemy's intery would have soon driven off our boys, with their ort range carbines. The disparity between the ranges the two arms would soon have settled that matter.

other thing to be taken into con another thing to be taken into consideration in the ocking up of the only road left to retreat on with led unes. As stated in another part of this despatch, the act was in an awful condition. Mounted men could willy get along in single file, certainly not by fours—the oper and usual mode of marching. The rain had rennd so soft that the men were thrown from rses while walking them over ploughed fields. through the fields the horses sank up to their delites. We could not well cut loose from the left flank of the infantry, for then that flank would have been left maposed, and the enemy would have many the state of the sta exposed, and the enemy would have marched on to the Boydton plank road and made an effort to turn the left of the infantry line. Our object was to hold the position enemy off of this we cut him off from the use of a ros hish has been of great service to him in getting sup-tes ever, and which it is necessary to hold for other asons that it is not now deemed prudent to make

Under the circumstances referred to above we retired the force that had been sent out in the direction of e Forks, and awaited a special movement on part of the infantry intended to aid us in execution of our part of the general plan t movement was to strike the enemy on the White Oak road and gain possession of it in order to enable General Sheridan to go on. Such was the rainy condition of the weather and the state of the ground that the ment had to be delayed until the following morning.

Our generals passed another night without provisions.

Sheir diet, like Butler's resolutions, was "pure and simple." It consisted principally of hard tack and partially of coffee. Many inquiries were made as to the where ets of the trains; but the usual answer was given k in the mud; it has not budged an inch." THE OPERATIONS OF THE 31st.

This now brings us to the morning of the 31st. The day opened cloudy and rainy, and the roads and ground generally were in no wise improved. The smallest runs were as small creeks, and the creeks as rapid streams. Every hollow noted for a water puddle was now marked ature lake. Travelling along any road was at ded with a constant sounding for bottom

ADVANCING ON THE WHITE OAK ROAD. se was made on the right of the cavalry line down the White Oak road by a portion of the Fifth army corps. from some cause, as yet not fully explained, the move to the troops being overmatched in numbers, and by others to widely different causes. At any rate the movement was not a success, and hence the cavalry could not go on in the direction of Five Forks.

ATTACK ON SHERIDAN'S LEFT.

About an hour or so after the Fifth corps troops had sed a spirited attack was made by the enemy's cavairy on that portion of the left of General Sheridan's line held by General Charies H. Smith's brigade. The enemy came up in good style, but was repulsed with able loss. As soon as possible General Smith de a counter charge, driving the enemy back, and tal ag over thirty prisoners in this charge. Major Paul Chadarne, commanding Second New York mounted rifles, s wounded in the shoulder. Gen. Smith had a horse shot under him, besides receiving a trifling wound in the leg. The wound was so slight that General Smith con-

We killed in this movement a rebel colonel named Neal, belonging to a North Carolina regiment. Had the ground admitted of anything like a steady charge we would have captured very many more prisoners before the rebeis reached and were covered by their infantry. GENERAL DAVIES SUPPORTS SMITH

gared the enemy on Smith's right. Under Davies, the Tenth New York, Colonel M. H. Avery; Twenty-fourth nel W. C. Newberry, and First Pennsylwanie, Major H. S. Thomas, were engaged. The First Maine, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan P. Cilley; Sixth Ohio, Col. M. H. Cryer, and Second New York II rifics, and Thirteenth Ohio, Colonel Stephen R. Clarke, vere also engaged.

ENEMY MOVES ON THE RIGHT. Having failed to gain any advantage on our left, the ould make against our right. On his right the enemy Front over to some lowlands thickly wooded on both idea. We discovered the movement, and attempted t cheek it at a fording place on the line of Chambe run. The Twenty-fourth New York and the Tenth New York were again engaged, this time very heavily.

In this particular part of the fight Colonel W. C. Newary was wounded-shot through the leg. Lieutenan el Scava was also wounded-shot in the abdomen. Solonel Scova was also would be a painful but not a danger case one. Colonel Scova's would is a dangerous one, and prove fatal. Major Doran, of the Twenty-fourth York, was killed, and it is reported that his Body was left on the field, and that it fell the hands of the enemy. Captain Pratt, of Tenth New York, was wounded in the arm. what wound in the head. The fighting at the ford was and our men never before behaved better; but, infantry was too much for them, they an the enemy's infantry was too much for and to give way and the enemy pressed on.

At this time no small portion of the cavalry command a back on the Vaughn road, about three miles. Mat ters threatening to be very serious, an officer was sent sock with orders to hasten up a portion of said com-mand as a reinforcement. He did so, and the reinforce-ment arrived in good season to participate. After the memy had gotten over the ford he continued to demon-trate against our left centre, with a view to deceiving us to what other movements he was then making. He ned against us with artfilery, but it neither mared nor

injured any of our men. Foremost among the troops on the left centre was the renty-first Pennsylvania, Colonel O. B. Knowler, Six-sh Pennsylvania, Colonel J. M. Robinson; Eighth assylvania, Lieutenant Colonel William A. Crane; Pennsyvania, Lieutenant Colonel A. P. Duncar Pennsylvania, Colonel W. Sanders. og the lines, from the extreme left to the extreme headquarters flag of Generals Charles H. ith and J. Irvin Gregg sould have been seen flitting here and there through the weeds, while their comers cheered the men on, and the men hung to the

> ture General Custer arrived upon the field les of his division. The bright dags that General were indeed a welcome The fighting had now got directly

ENTS DISMOUNTED. livision of General Merritt's corps lat of thick woods. We had a line men dismounted for the purpose. emmand fought on this line. by Lillie's brigade, of Gordon's med a regular line of battle and adt, Fifth and Sixth United States regulars

Acting Brandler Generals Colonele Peter Flogg and Charles L. Pitshugh had by this time got over to the Boyetton plank road, and they prevented the enemy from coloning a feetbald on that

It was at this period that the real battle commenced. The moment was a critical one for us, and General Sheridan naw it. He, therefore, dashed forward, followed by all his staff, headquarter's flag and excert; and with his hat off, waving it in the sir, he sheared the men and they neered him. He told them to remain firm; and the neers and the answers they gave in return told plainly lough they would. The sight was a thrilling one. The enough they would. The sight was a turning one. The enough they would be seen to the forts, and the fight-ing was in the open fields. Along the line of the woods the enemy reformed his line. Colonal Caphart's brigade and Colonel Pennington's brigade were hastened from the left of the line to support the centre. Just before the enemy had got out of the woods our men made a low breastwork of some fence rails. It did not afford them

At half-past five the enemy made a grand advance in two lines of battle from the woods across the fields. Thereupon immediately followed the hardest fighting of the day. There, too, the clouds paried and a gold flood of light burst in upon the scene and made our arms to distinguish the colours of the different commanders to look

of light burst in upon the scene and made our arms to glisten and the colors of the different commanders to look brighter than over before. The field was crowded with generals, who, together with their staffs and eccorts, added much to the picture-queness of the aspect.

The enemy got about midway between the woods and our line when he was checked. He continued to hold his line for some time, and he had much the advantage of us, in this way: that his rifes outranged our carbines, and gave him the odds in distance for firing.

The engagement continuing our patteries poured

The engagement continuing our patteries poured in a well directed fire, which more than one broke the enemy's line and threw certain portions of it into confusion. One of the batteries engaged was com-manded by Lieutenant Lord, Second United States ar-

Just at this time your correspondent was wounded, shot through the left shoulder by a Minie ball. The wound is a painful but not a dangerous one. It is therefore impossible for him to fully describe the remainder of the bettle, although he remained upon the field for

THE ENEMY MAKES ONE MORE EFFORT AND IS DRIVEN BACK By dark the enemy delivered one terrific volley; it seemed to be a continuous line of flame. As it did not move our men any, the enemy broke and went back, and we were left in possession of the field and our position at Dinwiddle Court House.

row, Sixth Pennsylvania, and Lieutenant Tilson, of the Fourth Pennsylvania. Lieutenant McGee, of the Sixth ennsylvania, was carried off the field dead.

The total cavalry losses for the day are between five and six hundred; probably not more than five.

THE FIFTH CORPS SENT TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CAVALRY. During the night General Grant ordered a portion o

the Fifth corps to advance so as to strike at the rear of the infantry force which attacked Sheridan, and it was thought Pickett had now got his command into a positio from which he would find it very difficult to extricate it. We are expecting more and very heavy fighting to day. It is probable that the Fifth and Second corps and rtion of Ord's army will be heavily engaged.

The interests of the service compel your correspondent to omit a great deal of important information; hence this account of cavalry operations is not as full in detail as it

cluding it may not be amiss to add th ter how the future fighting goes here, Grant will be en-tirely successful in executing the general plan. This would, and whatever successes we have after this may be set down as a clear gain. Other movements, and important ones, aside from those connected with Sherman's army, are being made, and the public may at any moment expect to hear very good news from an en

Mr. Wilson's Wound.
OUR WASHINGTON DESPATCH.
WASHINGTON, April 2, 1866.
Mr. Wilson, one of the HERALD correspondents, has come up from the front, wounded in the shoulder. It is a fiesh wound, with part of the clavide chipped off. He brought our despatches sent you to-day, and will proceed to New York. He received his wound during the charge

THE ARMY OF THE POJOMAC.

Mr. S. T. Bulkley's Despatch. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, IN THE FIELD, March 31, 1865.

THE POSITION ON THE MAINT OF THE SOTH. se of eperations last night left our forces in pos ession of the Boydton plank road, with the right of the of the Quaker road. A very strong line of breastworks was thrown up during the night, covering the Boydton road and running parallel with it. The enemy were in trenched a few hundred yards in advance, beyond a deep ravine with a stream of water intervening.

THE NATURE OF THE COUNTRY The country through which we are compelled to ad-vance is of the worst possible description for an attacking army. Dense woods, with a heavy growth of underbrush, deep swamps and ravines, through which it is almost an ibility to move artillery, and all the streams much swollen from the heavy rains that have fallen for the past two days, form the prominent features.

POSITION THREE MILES BEYOND THE BOYDTON ROAL CAINED ON THE SIST

Notwithstanding all these difficulties our brave soldiers have continued to advance, driving the enemy from one miles beyond the Boydton road, and in advance of the position occupied this morning. This has not been ac-complished without hard fighting and the loss of many

brave officers and men.
THE FIGHTING ON WARREN'S RIGHT. The fighting commenced at an early hour this morning, and has continued with little intermission during the day. Our forces were pushed across the ravine, and drove the enemy nearly a mile, when he mas forces against the right wing of the Fifth corps, and, for a time succeeded in forcing it back in some confusion forward, and we in turn drove the enemy with heavy loss.
The fighting here was very severe, and the losses or

THE SNEWY LEAVES HIS DRAD AND WOUNDED ON THE PIPLO. The rebels were compelled to leave many of their killed and wounded in our hands. At five o'clock this afternoon I rode over the ground and saw large numbers of them scattered through the woods, who had no been as yet picked up, though very many had been buried. STILL ADVANCING.

At dark our forces were still advancing, and had as rived in the vicinity of the heavy works of the enemy where General Hancock had his fight in the fall.

NEWS FROM MERCHAN.

The news from General Sheridan to-day is said to be of the most cheering character. He is driving the enemy on the extreme left with his usual vigor

Our losses in the Pifth and Second corps will not vary the Fifth corps was six hundred and fifty, and in the Sec ond three hundred and fifty. This allows five hundred for the killed, which is a fair estimate.

THE AMBULANCE AND RESPITAL STREET.

The ambulance and hospital system now used in this army works admirably. As an instance of this I will mention that all of the thousand men wounded to-day were picked up and carried to the rear, and had the wounds dressed, ready to be sent to the general hospital before eight o'clock this evening. Dr. Lidell, the enorgetic and efficient Medical Inspector of the Army of the Potomar, has been untiring in his efforts to-day in seeing that all the arrangements for the care of the wounder are properly carried out.

CASUALTIES AMONG PROMINENT OFFICERS. I can learn of very few casualties among promi

Brigadier General Dennison, commanding the Maryland brigade, I learn was slightly wounded. Major Mills, of General Humphreys' stuff, was killed. The same sho that killed Major Mills also killed the horse of Major Heap, commanding the regular Engineer battalion attached to General Meade's headquarters. Major Heap fortunately escaped uninjured.

In this connection I will speak of the immense amount

overment. The heavy mine have left the roads in such a corrible condition as to require miles of corduroy and amberices bridges to be built. This battation have worked ight and day with untiring industry for this purpose, and are fast getting the roads into a comparatively passa-

successful conclusion than General Meads. During a movement he is generally the last to retire at night and the first up in the morning, and when visiting the lines approaches much nearer the shirmish line of the enemy

It is reported at headquarters to night that the colored troops, occupying a portion of the old line formerly held by the Second corps, espeured a whole picket line in

their front to-day.

The number of prisoners captured by the Second and Fifth corps is unusually small. Two or three hundred will, I think, cover the whole reported at the Provest Marshal's headquarters.

The weather has finally cleared pleasant, with a pro-Heavy fighting is anticipated to-morrow.

THE SECOND CORPS.

Mr. Wm. J. Starks' Despe HEADQUARTERS, SECOND CORPS, In this Pinto, March 31, 1866.

A heavy rain set in at five o'clock this morning,

A heavy rain set in at five c'clock this morning, and shortly after daylight an order was issued from army headquarters that, owing to the order, no change would be made in the disposition of the troops, and rations and forage were sent to the front. But man only disposes, and the thundering of artillery and the roll of musketry have been heard with but slight intermission during the whole day along the line from Hatcher's run to Dinwiddie Court House and vicinity.

Shortly after eight o'clock heavy firing was heard on the left of the Twenty-fourth corps, now occupying the works formerly held by the Second. The enemy had massed his troops in front of a fort recently constructed near Hatcher's run, and charged with great im-petuosity, doubtless hoping to break our line at that point and capture or destroy our train, which was parked a short distance in the rear. The great extension of our line too, probably led him to believe that it was weak in front of those works held by us prior to the recent movement. He found it stronger than anticipated, and the attack was repulsed with great alaughter.

OUR TROOPS MOVE ON THE OFFENSIVE.

Soon after our troops at that point assumed the offen capturing a fort, with two heavy guns and a large number of prisoners.

after skirmishing began along the lines of this corps, which continued for an hour without important result. THE ENEMY'S ATTACK ON THE FIFTH CORPS.

At eleven o'clock the rebels make a flerce assault road, where it connects with the left of the First divi-sion of the Second. At this time the Fifth was moving its lines farther to the left, which was prevented by the enemy, who hastened to attack before the troops could be placed in position to meet him. The attack was made with great vigor, and for the moment promised to be successful. Third and Fourth brigades of the Third division, whose lines had been extended to the left simultaneously that of the Fifth corps, immediately advanced to support of the Fifth, and after a fierce conflict rebels were driven back over the ground they had gained. Our lines still continued to advance, the enemy re-treating before them, leaving their dead and wounded on the field. Batteries K, Fourth United States, and the First New Hampshire were placed in position, and did great execution during the progress of the fight.

THE SECOND CORPS ADVANCES THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE. Our line was advanced three-quarters of a mile, the memy abandoning a line of earthworks after but slight enemy abandoning a line of carthworks after but stignt resistance. Skirmlahing and artillery fire continued until about six o'clock, but nothing of importance ec-curred in front of our lines after the advance as stated. The Second and Third divisions have not been engaged during the day, although considerable skirmlahing has taken place in front of their lines.

THE TROOPS RELAYS STEERING.

Our troops, as usual, behaved with great gallantry.

They moved forward with such unwavering confidence that the enemy would not stand before them. The same want of pluck so frequently noticed of viate on the part of rebel soldiers was observable to day. They advance in fine style, much as in other days, but a little deter mined restraint seems to dishearten them, and they are easily induced to retire.

General Grant and General Meads visited Gen Humphreys' headquarters, which were in the immediate vicinity of the front line. During the fight they were smiling and confident, and from their appearance is

THE ENEMY FIRE A SHELL AT GENERAL GRANT, The rebels threw a shell at General Grant and his staff as they rode along the line. It passed over their heads, doing no injury to any of the party, but wounded a bat STRAIGHTENING THE LINE.

During the afternoon, it being thought best to straighte the line at a certain point, Colonel Croft, of the Fifth New Hampshire, with a party of sixty-four men, gallantly charged the enemy's line, driving it back and capturi imber of prisoners, and accomplishing the obj

As the fighting was entirely outside of works, and for a nsiderable time upon open ground, our casualties were erable, though it is certain they are much sm than the enemy's. Among these I mention with pro-found regret the death of Major Mills, Assistant Adjutant General on the corps staff, who was struck in the side by a solid shot and instantly killed about one o'clock to-day Major Mills was a resident of Boston. He was severely which compelled him to ask a leave. He suffered a great deal from his wound, and had lately returned from an extended leave of absonce granted him on that account Our army contains no more gallant soldier, no more affa nas caused among his fellow soldiers is a compliment to his memory paid to but few. His body will be embalmed and sent to his friends in the North

PRISONERS CAPTURED About one hundred and fifty prisoners were take uring the day. I have not learned that we lost any. Major C. J. Mills, A. A. G.; Lieutenant S. Everhar adjutant One Hundred and Forty-eighth Pennsylvani Volunteers, are among the killed

THE FIFTH CORPS.

Mr. L. A. Hendrick's Despatches. HRADQUARTERS, FIFTH ARMY CORPS, BOYDTON PLANE ROAD, March 31, 1865.

THE PIGHTING OF THE PIPTH CORPS ON THE 31ST. have had some severe fighting to-day. Our have been heavy—not less than six hundred kfiled, wounded and captured. It has not been a pitched battle a long, continuous, hotly contested fight-but rather a long continuous, hotty contested fight—but rather an irregular contest, ending, however, in complete and splendid success to our arms. The intention was to avoid active hostile demonstrations on our side and not to fight unless compelled to do so by the enemy.

Necessity of rationing the troops and the difficulty of getting supplies to them, on account of the terrible condition of the product granted laxing out this

dition of the roads, enforced laying out this programme for the day. Some conception can be formed of the pre-sent condition of the roads when the fact is stated that the supply train has been forty-eight hours coming to distance of only three miles, and that, too, with the assistance of some seven bundred men building cordurov roads. Burnside's famous mud march is feeble photograph of our present advance as regards th difficulty and almost impossibility, in fact, of transporta-tion. Copious showers in the fore part of the day intensifled the difficulty; but I am happy to say that the invit cible determination of Gen. Grant and almost superhuman toil of the men have at length overcome these difficulties as they will in future, through the agency of the same un yielding purpose and unremitting toil, be overcome, till he object of the movement is fully and satisfactorily accomplished.

The morning hours solled away without the sound of a

winthrop's brigade to feel his way in the direction of the White Oak road. The whole of Ayres' division, as also Crawford's, was then across what is called hig freeze, near the Boydten plank road, and five miles from Diswiedle Goart House. General Griffin's division was massed on this side the swamp, ever which our troops meantime had constructed a temporary bridge. The enemy mot Winhop in large force, and succeeded in flanking him, hurling his troops in confusion upon General Coulter's brigade. The remainder of ithe Second division and the Third division, coming to their aid, were also outlanked by the overwhelming force united in the assault upon them. With the increasant rattle of musketry soon

Ordering Major Ryder to prevent any one coming ever the bridge who had a musket, and summoning General Bartlett's brigade to move up on double quick, he began rallying the men. The broken column was quickly ralled. General Bartlett's brigade was soon on the ground. A new battle line was formed. Batteries were placed in position, and the work of driving the enemy back began.

How shall I describe the bettle that ensued. It lasted three hours. Our men fought their way up the hill, beyond the swamp; drove the enemy from his rife pits on the creet at the edge of the woods; scattered his battle lines, silenced his batteries, and ended with the possession of the White Oak road.

GARBERLAIN'S BRIGADE.

General Chamberlain's brigade, which had been called to take part in the bloody strife, covered itself with glory. I heard General Warren say that the skilful manner in which he handled his troops entitled him to another star.

But all behaved finely. General Ayres' division made a clear sweep before them. In a field near White Oak road the enemy had a line of intrenchments. Through and one chemy had a line of intrenchments. Through
an open field facing this work our forces advanced in
brilliant style. The enemy was driven from these works,
and the White Oak road was ours.

WITHIN FOUR BUNDRED TARDS OF THE EMERY.

Our picket line is to-night within four hundred yards of that of the enemy. It was a magnificent victory.

I have given our losses at six hundred. Many fine officers and men have fallen. It will be seen that Gen. Dennison, commanding the Maryland brigade, is among the wounded. He expects to be able to resume his com-mand in a few days. Colonel Sergeant, Twenty-first New York regiment, has received a painful but not danger ous wound. Both officers distinguished themselves for

Lieutenant Colonel Trimblet, Thirty-ninth K setts, has lost a leg. Prisoners state that the enemy's loss is very heavy. We captured one hundred and six

Our wounded of to-day will be sent to City Point in the

Major Glenn, One Hundred and Ninety-eighth Pennsylvanis, captured a battle flag in the assault on the enemy's works alluded to above. He captured the color hearer also. The flag has the names of the Ninth and Fiftysixth Virginia regiments on it, which two regimes appears, are consolidated.

GALLANT WOUNDED OFFICERS.

Lieutenant D. W. Johnson, commanding Battery D, First New York artillery, received quite a severe wound from a rebel builet, but notwithstanding retained command of his battery until the close of the fight. Capitals Raisted, Assistant Adjutant General, was also wounded but would not and did not leave the field until the fight ng was over.

A rain storm lessens the effectiveness of musketry, it would appear, very materially. The Fifth New York, for instance, went to-day with one hundred and eighty rifes into the fight, and at the order to fire only fifteen

THE SIXTH CORPS.

Mr. Chas. H. Hannam's Despatch HEADQUARTERS, SIXTH ARMY CORPS,]

THE EXERT STRENGTHENING ON THE SIXTH CORPS' PROME.
The robel line on our front has not yet been materially ed, and signal officers report that working partic have been busily engaged strengthening the abatis is front of the rebel line. Not a shot has been fired on our front to-day, and although the corps has been in readiness to move in any direction, its services have not been

Firing both of infantry and artillery has been heard at ntervals during the whole day on the right. Some ar-

The weather has since early this morning been dry and windy. A few days suffices to dry the ground in this section of the country, and almost before the rain ceases to fail clouds of dust fill the air. To night there is every prospect of it continuing favorable for the activ perations now in progress. PICKET PIRING.

To-night our pickets are very noisy, and are ex changing leaden compliments with the rebels. The firing is more frequent than we have heard for some

Descriers from the rebel army still continue to arrive, but do not report anything of importance.

THE ARMY OF THE JAMES.

Mr. John A. Brady's Despatches. HRADQUARTERS, DETACHMENT ARMY OF THE JAMES, OPERATING WITH ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, MARCH 28, 1866.

For some time past the troops of the Army of the James have been expecting marching orders. What their orders were nobody knew, although all kinds of umors were received, and many military heads were busy in planning a military campaign. When orders did come, troops selected for special duty were marched towards the James over pontoons and it be. operate in some manner with the Army of the Potomac

THE TROOPS PARTICIPATING IN THE MOVEMENT. the Twenty-fourth corps moved under General Gibbon, who has for some time commanded this corps. The colored troops selected were placed under General William Barney. The whole force was commanded by General Ord in person.

About dark last evening the different regiments move out from their camps, and proceeded at a rapid march in the direction of the James river, crossing the bridge at Alken, and afterwards that across the Appo Broadway landing. The roads were in horrid condition but not the slightest delay was experienced. Where litt obstructions did cause a few minutes' work on the part of the road, General Hall's engineers placed everything in al Meade's headquarters. It was rumored through the column that our objective point was Fort Lampso culty and considerable struggling, make it before dark.

OCCUPYING THE POSITION OF THE SECOND CORPS,
A balt took place at sunsel, and at four o'clock this
morning the column moved into the line of the Second corps, relieving that command, which followed on to th oft after the Fifth corps.

This command to-day has been lying in the works racated by the Second corps yesterday morning. Noth ing has been done by us as yet, though occasional and distant discharges of heavy guns show that the Army of the Potemac has met the enemy and captured their line Our pickets are at present stationed in works of the enemy from which they were driven in the late fight by the Second corps. The rebels in thei front are busily engaged in strengthening the line. AFFAIRS ON THE PROST.

Officers of our picket guard report that the ene my have negro coldiers on their picket line in our front. From deserters, who are constantly coming in we

The signal corps accompanying this command is unusually small, owing to the non-appearance of a number of officers ordered from the department of the South to report to Captain Norton. It is composed at present of Captain L. B. Norton, chief signal officer, Army of the James, and Lieutenants S. N. Bogers and F. J. Amadell. Bo far, however, these gentlemen have been enabled to namer every requirement. The Quartermanter's Department is under the control of clone! John R. Heward, Chief Quartermaster of the

irmy of the James.

Lieutenant Colonel A. B. Lawrence, Chief Quartermaster of the Twenty-fourth corps, accompanies General
Bibbon, and Captain Purington, for a long time Head

army, owing to the excellent management of Colonel Howard. Eaught by a long experience in the field, this officer was enabled to make arrangements to meet every contible contingency. Carefully prepared series of inhas moved along in an unbroken series, without delaying the march of the troops, at the same time arriving al

The Commissary Department is represented by Lieu-tenant Colonel Small, Chief Commissary of the Army of the James, and Captain Hill, Chief Commissary of the Twenty-fourth army corps. As to its efficiency, nothing further can be said than that the troops are plentsfully supplied with rations.

THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Colonel Geo. Suckley, Medical Director of the Depart ment of Virginia and Army of the James, has assumed control of medical affairs. Surgeon Alex. B. Mott, United States Volunteers, accompanies him as medical inspector of the army, and Surgeon Morrison, United States Volun tears as modical director with General Gibbon

New Hampshire Volunteers. Surgeon C. M. Clark, of geon of the Twenty-fourth corps, takes the same position geon of the Twenty-fourth corps, takes the same position with the present command. Acting Staff Surgeon Allen is chief executive surgeon of the hospital, with four assistants; and Acting Staff Surgeon Nelson is recorder of cases. So far no cases have been brought into the have been completely used up by the inte excessive march. The hospital has been located as near as possible to the front, but still so near the railroad that little difficulty will be experienced in sending the wounded at once to Point of Rocks.

Major General Ord made to-day a careful survey of the lines occupied by the troops of his command, and, as far as possible, of the position occupied by the enemy on

Both General Ord and General Gibbon have established their headquarters at the old headquarters of General

Humphreys. They are, of course, considerably in

nienced by the want of space; but it is the only position that could be taken possession of on short notice.

Maken 30—Midnight.

YURNER'S DIVISION.

In the midst of the falling rain Turner moved his division, of the Twenty-fourth corps, shortly after daybreak down the Vaughn road, crossed Hatcher's run, and, turning to the right, pushed forward to make a connection with the right of the Second corps, which was at that time drawn up so as to make almost a right angle with the works we hold. With very lattle firing and no fighting whatever this connection was made. The firing was entirely in the skirmish line, and, although the enemy's batteries opened, still very few men were injured.

Immediately after Turner had secured his position denoral Foster was ordered to advance a brigade of his division to form a junction with Turner's, on the right. General Foster immediately directed Dandy's brigade to advance and accomplish this object. Elder's horse battery was also ordered to hold itself in readiness, but did not go outside the works. Colonel Dandy advanced with his brigade about noon, and with little difficulty completed the connection, although the rebels opened on both his line and Turner's with several heavy guns.

General Foster accompanied Dandy's advance, and afterward, when the position was secured, remained on the ground through the night hastening the erection of works to repel any attempt of the rebels in

despaich, and under the direction of Brevet Brigadier General Turchie of the engineers, Chief Engineer of the army of the James.

Only eight were wounded to day, at least that constitutes the number so far brought in. It will be impossible to furnish their names until to-morrow, when probably the list will be increased.

MARCH 81, 1865. TURNER DRIVES THE EXCENT WITHIN THEIR RIPLE PITS. Although yesterday finally succeeded in being a clear day, yet the troops through this morning were compelled to advance again under a blinding shower of rain. At midnight the sky was beautifully clear, showing every star and giving promise of a clear day. An hour after wards, however, the rain was again falling from a mass

the eye could reach. In spite of the threatening weather Turner threw for-ward his division and chased the rebel picket line inside all of them, hardly leaving a man.

of black clouds that covered an unbroken stretch far as

POSTER'S DIVISION IN MOTION. Foster pushed forward that portion of his division on the line and materially assisted in the capture of the pris-oners. The advance of both these divisions was inside the rebel picket line and within six hundred yards of their main works.

Birney's division, of the Twenty-afth corps, has taken position on the right of Foster, assisting that General greatly in strengthening his line.

OUR WORKS.

Throughout last night our troops were busily engaged in strengthening their works, and they now have a line that will enable them to hold their ground against any force the enemy may mass against them with the inten-tion of making a dash and breaking their line.

The thin line with which the rebels held their was rendered comparatively harmless throughout the day by the continuous firing of our skirmishers. Not a man could raise his head over their parapet without being the target for a dozen rifles. Their heavy guns were finally so far covered by our sharpsho render them almost useless, and the gunners were able to fre but few shots throughout the day.

One hundred and eighty-nine prisoners were taken, o whom four were officers—a captain, first fleutenant, and two second fleutenants. Many of them stated that they did not fire a shot, and did not want to fire. Nearly all expressed thomselves completely satisfied with being

Captain Brown, of the Tenth Connecticut, was shot tead by the provost guard during the day after attempting the Life of Captain Carruthers, Provest Mar-hal of eneral Foster's division. It seems that the Captain was laboring under temporary insan ty, caused by old wounds. He was wandering from his regiment all day, and finally attempted to pass through the provost guard to the rear He was stopped by the corporal in obedience to orders, and then stated that if the corporal had stopped him on his own authority be would shoot him, but if on the authority of the Provost Marshal he would shoot the latter. The corporal accompanied Capso to Captain Carruthers, and the

General Foster pushed his line still further forward this morning, and, as I write (five A. M.) a continuous rattle of musketry proves that she enemy are making

erate exertions to force him back. through the last three days is very slight—about on

ed wounded and ten or twelve ki Our Special Washington Despatches

Washington, April 2, 1865
This has been a day of almost universal rejoicing This has been a day of almost universal rejoicing Washington. Upon the reception of the news of Gran glorious victories around Petersburg the portices of War and Navy Departments were decorated with a toons of national flags, and throughout the city num ous private residences were similarly decorated. The news spread rapidly, and almost every face met upon a streets was wreathed with smiles. Even many of the who have heretofore been classed as rebel sympathis.

nearly all the papers and eagerly sought by the peop who thronged the atreets, anxiously inquiring for som thing later. Neither the fall of Vicksburg nor of Charle ton has produced so much gladness as the news of these victories, which foreshadow the occupation of Richmone victories, which foreshadow the occupation of Richmond by the Union forces within a few hours, the capture of all Lee's splendid army and the immediate end of the re-

resident remains at his headquarters at the base of the ctive operations now in progress. Officers who accompanied Mrs. Lincoln report that the President stayed for the purpose of going to Richmond, as he had been promdo so within forty-eight hours. It is expected here that, immediately after the occupation of Richmond, the President will issue a new proclamation of amnesty, inviting the remainder of the rebels to lay down their arms, to wold further unnecessary bloodshed and loss of life, and

Considerable amusement has been caused by the true statement of the facts in regard to the fierce fight re-ported to have taken place in front of Petersburg on Wednesday night. It seems that both sides imagined they had inflicted great damage on the other, at little or no loss to themselves, in repelling mutua which occurred only in the imagination of the opposing forces, each of which were snugly ensonned in their re-spective earthworks and firing at imaginary assailants. The gradiloquent accounts of this affair published by the Northern and the rebel papers, in view of the facts, are ludicrous in the extrem

Washington, April 2—P. M. The great importance attached to Sheridan's holding his own at Dinwiddie against the furious assault upon him on Friday afternoon can now be fully appreciated since it enabled him on the following day, because of the position he held, to so successfully co-operate on the left of the infantry line. Had Sheridan failed on Friday night and been driven back, it is more than robable the general result of Saturday's operations could have been far different from what they were. The very bad condition of the roads and the rainy weather did more to retard General Grant on Thursday and Friday than it was possible for the enemy, with all

his fortifications and troops, to do.

On Saturday morning the President and Secretary of State were both at City Point, and it was surmised that the presence of these gentlemen there was for a purpose far above sightseeing and being near at hand. It was thought the President had in view the issuing of an emi-nently important proclamation in the event of the fall of Petersburg or Richmond.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

Important Operations on the Rebel Right.
SHERIDAN ON A RAID—RECONNOISSANCE NEAR HATCHER'S RUN.

HATCHER'S RUN.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 31.]
Important operations are in progress on our right.
The Petersburg Espress saps:—At an early hour
Wednesday morning a heavy force of the enemy, cong
sisting of cavalry, infantry and artillery, supposed to
be headed by "Cavalry Sheridan," made a detour around
our lines and advanced towards the Boydton plank
road, and between seven and eight o'clock struck this
thoroughfare some six miles beyond Dinwiddle Court
House. Towards eleven o'clock we, understand, this force was in the vicinity of the Court Ho was reported that the enemy had reached the Court Ho and was demonstrating towards Burgess' mi Revea that the destination of this force is the southeast Railroad, which Grant wishes to destroy and thereby out of General Lee's communication and diminish his supplies. While demonstrating on the plank road it is thought the main body of the cavalry struck out through the country in the direction of the railroad. This, however, is not

in the direction of the railroad. This, however, it positively known.

The Express also says:—Wednesday atternoon Ger Anderson, commanding our extreme right, demonst against the enemy's works in his front, for the pur of ascertaining their strength at that point, and if able their intentions in pending operations. Our finet with a vigorous resistance. The object of the monstration being gained they fell back, the Yankee pursuins. Late in the afternoon, however, the ecommenced advancing and skirmishing with our follows severe lighting may have occurred; but of the are not positively assured. Every appearance indivit. Brisk cannonading was heard in that directioning the afternoon.

ing the afternoon.

The Midmight Hattle Before Petersburg on the 29th Ultimos.

[From the Richmond Examiner, March 31.]

The enemy attempted a night assa it on our lines about Petersburg on last Wednesday night, about ten o'clock. The Petersburg Exp. ess of yesterday gives the following occount of the attair:—

At nine minutes past ten o'clock Wednesday night the enemy opened on our extremed left, near the Appomation, with a fearful artillery fire, while a simultaneous movement was made on the part of their infantry, the mencharging up to our breastworks in great masses. Our men, under the gallant Gordon, were wide awake, and received the charge with a coolness and precision which caused the assaillants to recoil with evident dismay and consternation. Up to twelve o'clock the fighting was continued with great vigor and persistency, the enemy making in all five separate assaults, in every one of which the "blue bellies" were sent recling back. At the hate bour at which we write—half-past twelve A. M.—heavy firing is progressing; but our officers and menknow that the enemy has done his worst, and feel perfectly satisfied that they can hold their own against Grant's combined legions. The night was intensely dark, it being impossible to see a man at a distance of more than twenty paces, and we cannot speak positively of the enemy's losses, but they must have been immense. They came in swarms, supposed to be several lines of battle deep, and, as in no instance did they even get through our obstructions, the irresistible inference is that the slaughter was fearful. Our loss was comparatively small.

We witnessed the seene from the brow of Beiling's Hull.

tively small.

We witnessed the scene from the brow of Beiling's Hill, and never saw one more fearfully grand. From the river round to the Wilcox House, for a distance of three miles, the horizon was illuminated with burst in mortars and exploding sheets, while the line of battle was most clearly defined by the sheet of flame witch literally blazed without cessation from the muzzles of our small

blazed without community was aroused by the deafening roar of artillery and incessant roll of musketry, which shook every dwelling from roof to basement, and caused the inmates to shake with agitation and alarm. The enemy evidently expected to surprise our troops; but General Gordon's boys never sleep when danger is near, and extended to the assailants a reception which we think it probable they will never forget. The gallantry of our men was displayed in a most gratifying manner, and their conduct is the theme of universal praise. The stillers fire on our side was magnificent, and the Cumthink it processes they are the constraints of our men was displayed in a most gratifying manner, and their conduct is the theme of universal praise. The artillery fire on our side was magnificent, and the Cummings' and Bradford batteries in Chesterfield were eminently conspicuous for rapid and accurate firing from the elevation we occupied. It is a fact especially deserving of mention that during the entire fight, which lasted over two hours, not a man was observed coming to the

We have just seen an officer from the front. He say the enemy charged up to our ches aux de fries e, with ten paces of the muzzles of our guist, and were literally mowed down. The shughter is known to have be an verg great; but the morning will alone reveal its extent. Ou loss is unprecedentedly small.

Appurion at a parameter.

loss is unprecedentedly small.

A letter from Petersburg, dated two o'clock yesterday morning, fermi-hes the annexed particulariz.

I have just returned from Blandford. I never witnessed a grander sight. From the river to the Wilcox House the line of baltie raged and roared for two hours with a forecases which, to a non-combatant, was truly cerrific. The enemy charged in several lines of battle, coming, in some of their assaults, up to our obstructions at the foot of the breastworks, and our boys literally moved them down.

terrific. The enemy characteristic up to our obstructions of the foot of the breastworks, and our boys literally moved them down.

The losses on the part of the enemy must have no doubt been fear uit, but it is impossible to see what has been done. Daylight will probably reveal a fearful seem of carnage and blood. Gordon's corps covered them.

CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.